

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 HA-05 TRSE-00 /084 W
-----114983 091137Z /17

R 081320Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5525
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 1494

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CZ, SHUM
SUBJECT: REPORTED PROSECUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

1. ONE CONCOMITANT OF THE RECENT BREZHNEV VISIT HAS BEEN AN
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INCREASE IN REPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS (WHO, INCIDENTALLY,
CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THEIR DESIRE NOT TO BE LABELLED "DISSIDENTS").

2. AS WE HAD EARLIER REPORTED, THERE WAS AN EXTENSIVE ROUND-
UP OF ACTIVISTS WHILE BREZHNEV WAS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA,
PRESUMABLY AS AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION AND AS PART OF A GENERAL
TIGHTENING OF INTERNAL CONTROLS HERE FOLLOWING THE ORLOV TRIAL IN

MOSCOW. TOTAL NUMBER DETAINED IS UNCLEAR. WE HAVE OBTAINED ONE LIST WHICH INCLUDED 38 PEOPLE IN PRAGUE, 4 IN BRNO AND ONE IN BRATISLAVA. THIS LIST, HOWEVER, DOES NOT CONTAIN SOME NAMES PROVIDED BY OTHER SOURCES. WE CAN IDENTIFY MOST, BUT NOT ALL, LISTED DETAINEES AS CHARTER 77 SIGNERS. OTHERWISE, THE REASON FOR THEIR DETENTION IS NOT CLEAR, SINCE MOST HAVE NOT COME TO PUBLIC ATTENTION AS HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS.

3. A CLANDESTINELY CIRCULATED LETTER DATED JUNE 5 SAYS WRITER/ POET JIRI GRUSA WAS ARRESTED DURING PRECEDING WEEK AND CHARGED WITH "INCITEMENT" (ART. 100 OF PENAL CODE), APPARENTLY FOR ARRANGING TO HAVE HIS NOVEL "DOTAZNIK" (THE QUESTIONNAIRE) PRINTED IN FRANCE (GALLIMARD) AND SWITZERLAND (REICH OF LUCERNE). SINCE 1969 GRUSA HAS BEEN ABLE TO PRINT ONLY IN THE UNDERGROUND PETLICE PRESS. THE ARREST HAS NOT YET BEEN REPORTED IN MEDIA.

4. ONE SOURCE SAYS THAT SOME THE BREZHNEV VISIT DETAINEES ARE BEING CHARGED WITH "PARASITISM" AND THAT VACLAV HAVEL, WHO WAS AMONG THE DETAINEES, HAS ALSO BEEN CHARGED WITH "INCITEMENT." THIS CRIME CARRIES A PUNISHMENT OF SIX MONTHS TO THREE YEARS OF PRISON. IN HAVEL'S CASE IT WOULD ALSO PRESUMABLY CAUSE ACTIVATION OF THE 14-MONTH PRISON SENTENCE HE RECEIVED LAST OCTOBER (77 PRAGUE 3032) WHICH WAS SUSPENDED FOR THREE YEARS. DECONTROL 4 YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE.
FROWICK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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